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The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC #01225-85
6 March 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: Frederick L. Wettersing
National Intelligence Officer for Africa

SUBJECT: Cuba/Angola/Nicaragua: The Cuban Withdrawal
Ploy Continues to Play

1. As [] noted to you at the Wednesday meeting, while the Cubans are publicly playing to the galleries in announcing that they and the Nicaraguan regime are prepared to withdraw 100 military advisors it is our judgment that in fact the number of Cuban military advisors will probably increase given the vast amounts of Bloc weaponry delivered to Nicaragua and the need for trainers, advisors, and operators. It is not widely appreciated that the Cubans played exactly the same game in Angola in early 1976. During the Congressional debate on the Tunney-Javits and Clark Amendments [] the Cubans and the MPLA regime both loudly proclaimed the intention to "shortly" withdraw Cuban combat forces in Angola. These "promises," which included alleged token withdrawals, played a part in the passage of the Clark Amendment. In a speech in 1979, Castro publicly acknowledged that because of continuing "imperialist"--in this case UNITA--activity, he in fact reinforced his Cuban contingent in Angola rather than draw it down. One can easily project this same ploy into the current negotiations on Cuban troop withdrawal from Angola--a public Cuban pledge to withdraw, a token withdrawal, then Cuban reinforcements breaking the pledges given which are excused by continuing dissident activity.

2. You may wish to note the historic basis for this Cuban ploy and its application in contemporary Nicaragua and Angola. You could add that ALA has been tasked to do a quick paper on this aspect of Cuban internationalist behavior.

Fred Wettersing
Frederick L. Wettersing



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